

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 12-218

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Unit 7 and Unit 9 Water Catchment Repair Program

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region II / GMU 7 and GMU 9

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Flagstaff-Williams

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

**YES**☐ **NO**☐ Discussed with Tom Mackin and he concurred with the need

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** **YES**☐ **NO**☒

**If Yes, was it funded?** **YES**☐ **NO**☐ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

**Project Type:** Water development repair program in support of current AZGFD program

**Brief Project Summary:** There are many wildlife water catchments that are in need of repair, however, existing agency personnel are unable to keep up with the demand for repairs. The Arizona Elk Society has adopted an approach of supporting the Department and the Forest Service by assisting in maintenance and repair of wildlife waters as requested. In August 2012, the Wildlife Managers in units 7 and 9 provided the AES with a listing of 17 catchments that are in need of various levels of maintenance and asked for our assistance in completing repair on these important wildlife habitat features.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Elk, mule deer, bears, wild turkey, pronghorn

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:

June 2013

Project End Date:

October 2014

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: **Yes**☐ **No**☐ **N/A**☒

Projected Completion Date: Rehabilitate within existing footprint

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

**Yes**☐ **No**☐ **N/A**☒

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: **N/A**☒

To be Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:** \$ 7,500

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:** \$ 10,000

**Total Project Costs:** \$ 17,500

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant** (please print):

Arizona Elk Society – Jim deVos and Steve Clark

**Address:**

P.O Box 190  
Peoria, AZ 85380

**E-mail:**

jdevos@cableone.net

**Telephone:** 928-420-6449

**Date:** 9-4-2012

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.** (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Matt Padilla, , and Larry Phoenix – 928-774-5045

**Project has been coordinated with:** Tom Mackin, Flagstaff-Williams HPC, Matt Padilla, AZGF, Larry Phoenix, AZGFD, , AZGFD. Discussed with Ed Jarhke, AZGFD

### **NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Water developments for wildlife has been an active program initiated by the AZGFD nearly 70 years ago with nearly 1,000 developments completed statewide since. One of the key issues related to wildlife waters is that over the years there have been a number of different designs used, some of which are not dependable. Given the number of these developments in the AZGFD Region II area and the limited resources the Department has to provide maintenance to these valued resources, assistance from interested Wildlife Conservation Organizations is essential. In fact, this need was one of the key issues that were identified as a programmatic need by the AZGFD Water Development Team (Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2003. Arizona Wildlife Water Development Team Report. Arizona Game and Fish Department. Phoenix).

Not only have water that are built specifically for wildlife been a maintenance issue, but waters that have been built as dual purpose (livestock and wildlife) are also in great need of maintenance as many ranches are being converted from active livestock operations to more corporate-owned allotments where infrastructure maintenance is being neglected and water features are no longer functional (Billy Cordasco, President, , Pers. Comm.). These two factors amplify the need for WCO assistance in maintaining and repairing wildlife waters.

In August 2012, the AES Executive Board endorsed implementing a program that is designed to help with hauling water to catchments as needed and requested by the Department and to provide maintenance to facilities where requested. To ensure adequate review is considered in selecting wildlife waters that are high priority to the region, we solicited input from the Wildlife Managers in these units and they in turn provided a list of 17 priority waters within units 7 and 9. In the later part of August 2012, AES persons initiated repair to some of these facilities and are assessing the need for all of the waters on the list. Some are quite minor in nature, however, some will entail more substantial repair. Without the coordinated efforts of the AES, working in concert with other organizations such as RMEF and FONAF, much of the work needed to bring these catchments into full working condition will not occur. While the organizations are capable of providing extensive volunteer labor, acquisition of needed material is also essential. This request for funding will be used to pay for direct costs associated with repair of the facilities identified by area Wildlife Managers.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

To provide repair to existing facilities so that they will dependably catch water for a wide variety of wildlife species. We will use a combination of volunteer labor and contractor services to complete repair of the apron consistent with AZGFD specifications.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Wildlife waters are a critical component of habitat, particularly in drought conditions such as occurred in summer 2012 when water hauling was essential. Part of the reason that water hauling was so important this year is the fact that many of the existing wildlife waters are in some level of disrepair. In many instances, the repair is quite minor and easily accomplished, however, in many

instances the repairs are more extensive. As an example, at Dog Knobs catchment, the holding tank was functional but the drinker had numerous holes in it and to be functional, the drinker had to be replaced. Although the apron at this location is non-functional now, by hauling water to the storage tank, with the new drinker, the water will continue to be available to wildlife. During the course of summer 2012, AES personnel, working with various collaborators have been able to complete tasks such as water hauling (in excess of 50,000 gallons), drinker replacement, fence repair, and apron repair. More work is being completed in late summer of 2012 with work anticipated to be completed including apron sealing, apron repair, routine maintenance, fence repair/replacement, amending fence structure to being more wildlife friendly, and other needed projects. Again, all of this work is being coordinated with Region II personnel.

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

In August 2012, the Wildlife Manager in units 7 and 9 provided a list of 17 wildlife waters, which will be the focus for repair efforts. If more essential needs are identified and the assistance of AES requested, if the staff of AES has time and resources are available, we will work on other projects but our involvement is all based on requests from either the AZGFD or another land management agency.

### **LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Forest Service

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

### **HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

The habitat in units 7 and 9 is somewhat varied but generally range from high elevation grasslands to pine forests. Most of the water developments are at mid-elevation locations in mixed grassland-coniferous forest vegetation types.

### **ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

#### Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Procurement of materials to be used to repair the apron to AZGFD standards and for limited contractor services.

#### Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

To date, the AES has purchased a 4X4 truck and equipped it for field service to both haul water to remote locations. Additionally, we have funded the repair of the vehicle to include new tires and routine maintenance to ensure its utility as a field vehicle. In addition, AES has funded a part-time contractor to complete much of the repair work and all of the water hauling that AES has completed in 2012. To date the combined total exceeds \$10,000 and as of the writing of this proposal, additional funding has been approved by the AES Board but is unexpended.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

U. S. Forest Service – Coordination

Matt Padilla, Wildlife Manager – 7 W. Matt has listed this catchment as one of the facilities in his district as needing repair.

Larry Phoenix, AZGFD, coordination

, AZGFD, coordination and direction on needed repairs

Tom Mackin – FONAF, RMEF – cooperation and collaboration in repairs

Claire Harris – RMEF – cooperation and collaboration in repairs.

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

Jim deVos will monitor and report to cooperators as needed.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

This is a segment of an on-going program that the AES has implemented in coordination with Region II personnel and persons associated with FONAF and RMEF. Currently, the need for repair is extreme, however, with the proposed improvements, we anticipate that maintenance will be fractional compared to current conditions.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

In that this project entails several different catchments, a separate report will be developed and submitted to the cooperators to this project at the completion of each project. Also, a comprehensive report will also be developed at the end of the project detailing all the accomplishments and incorporating recommendations for future similar efforts.

Jim deVos, Director of Conservation Affairs  
Arizona Elk Society

## **ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

### **WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Unit 7 and Unit 9 Water Catchment Repair Program

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**

Wildlife Manager Matt Padilla has listed this water as one of the priority waters in a memo dated August 8, 2012. Additionally, Colby Walton also provided a listing of developments that needed repair in Unit 9 in August 2012. This is the basis of the work list that the AES will be working from. At the request of AES these Wildlife Managers produced this list as priority direction to the AES on which waters to work with.

- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.** Discussed with Ed Jarhke on 9-4-2012

- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**

☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☐10-12 ☐12-14 ☒14-16 ☐ >16

- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES ☐ (please complete #5 below) NO ☒ (skip #5 below)

This is variable, but the waters that have been identified by the Wildlife Managers are their priorities based on their understanding of the needs of wildlife in the areas where they have the greatest contemporary knowledge.

- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**

Name of water source:

Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank):

Ownership of water source:

Distance in miles from project:

- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES ☐ NO ☒

- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**

- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**

Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles ☒4x4 only ☐foot only\*

\*\*If foot access only: Distance in miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate hiking time: \_\_\_\_\_

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES ☐ NO ☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: None

- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**

Given the diverse number of catchments that the wildlife managers have identified as needing repair, there are varied access conditions.

- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes ☒ No ☐

(If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.)

The area Wildlife Managers have visited all of these sites and have indicated that they need various types of repair.